

REMARKS

Receipt of the final Office Action mailed April 10, 2008 is acknowledged. Claims 10 has been amended. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-19, 35-43 and 46-48 will be pending. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested because it is believed to put the application into condition for allowance or at least reduce the number of issues on appeal.

Upon allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-11 and 14, rejoinder of combination claims listed in Groups II, IV, V and VI is requested as required in the last paragraph of MPEP 806.05(c) ("If a claim to B_{sp} is determined to be allowable, any claims requiring B_{sp}, including any combination claims of the format AB_{sp}, must be considered for rejoinder"). Also, upon the allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-11 and 14, rejoinder of the process claims is respectfully requested pursuant to MPEP 821.04(b). Applicants reserve the right to file additional divisional application directed to the non-elected claims.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In view of the amendment to claim 10, applicants submit that these rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon Hoare (GB 2 118 155) ("GB '115"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner at page 4 of the Office Action takes the position that the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims provides the rationale for interpreting the female threads, i.e., those threads that receive the threads on grub screw 22 as having an opposite threaded design of the male threads 15 on closure member 3 of GB '115. Applicants respectfully traverse this position.

Paraphrased amended claim 1 recites a first set of threads formed on the recess (corresponds to threads 18 shown in the Figure 1 preferred embodiment) “[has] a direction which is opposite” the second set of threads formed on the inner or outer cylindrical wall (inner cylindrical wall threads correspond to threads on inner cylindrical wall 11 as shown in the Figure 1 preferred embodiment). This claim limitation of “having a direction which is opposite” cannot be reasonably interpreted to be satisfied by male and female threads.

The specification at page 6, line 7-16, describes threads having opposite directions. Specifically, lines 11 and 12 describe the “threads on the inner or outer cylindrical wall of the cap are in an opposite direction to those threads in the recess or depression” (emphasis added). At page 5 line 30 to page 6, line 2, the recess is described as being internally threaded (i.e., female threaded) to receive the threads of the rotatable spindle. In the case where the inner cylindrical wall carries the threads (i.e., is female threaded), it would be impossible for the threads of the inner cylindrical wall and the recess to be in a direction which is opposite using the Examiner’s interpretation since both sets of threads would be female. It is quite clear from a reading of the specification, particularly at page 6, lines 7-16, that “opposite direction” (i.e., “having a direction which is opposite” as used in claim 1) is in reference to the threads being in a right hand direction or left hand direction. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 7, 46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Gordon Hoare (GB 2 118 155) (“GB ‘115”) in view of Daubert et al. Applicants submit that claims 3-5, 7, 46 and 48 are allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 8-11 and 14. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 10-0750/CDS 5015/TJB.

Respectfully submitted,

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